

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 274 786 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 10.08.1994

(21) Application No 9400195.5

(22) Date of Filing 07.01.1994

(30) Priority Data

(31) 9302494

(32) 09.02.1993

(33) GB

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(51) INT CL⁵

A63B 47/02

(52) UK CL (Edition M)

A6D D11X

(56) Documents Cited

GB 2246517 A

US 4787632 A

(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition M) **A6D D11X D28**

INT CL⁵ **A63B 47/02**

(54) **Golfing accessory.**

(57) A golfing accessory comprises a club engaging portion 14 to enable the accessory to be secured to the butt end of a golf club and a ball receiving portion 2 capable of grippingly engaging and retaining a golf ball. The ball receiving portion comprises a pair of spaced arms which are resiliently deformable relative to one another as the accessory is pushed down onto a golf ball, such that the ball is gripped between the arms. The arms are preferably bifurcated to form respective claws 7 terminating in pointed ends which serve to contact the dimples on the surface of the golf ball to steady and locate the ball below the accessory prior to gripping.

FIGURE 1

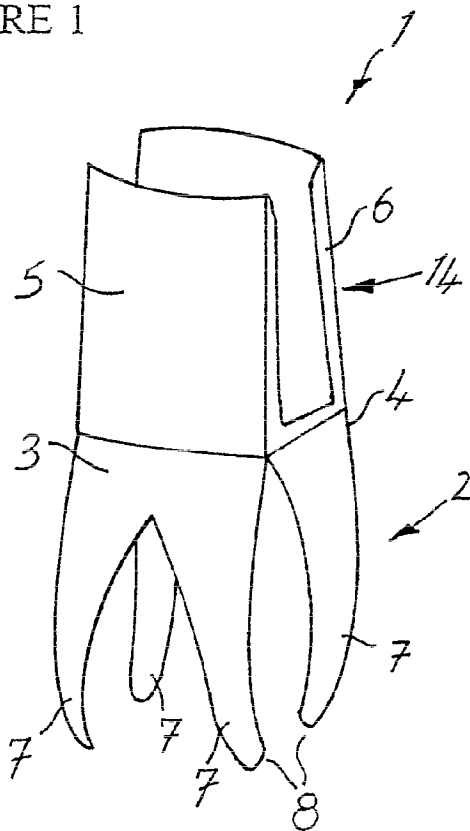
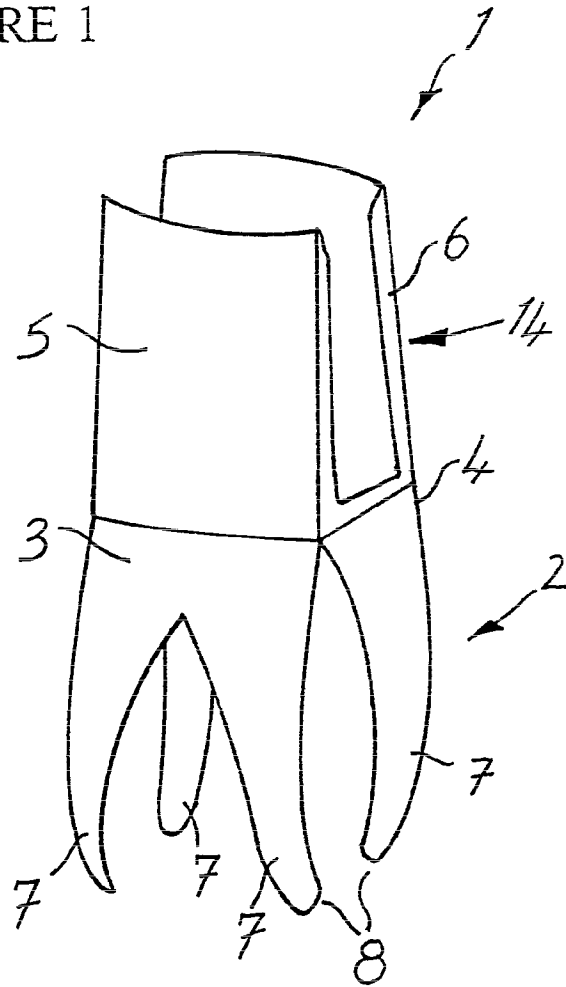


FIGURE 1



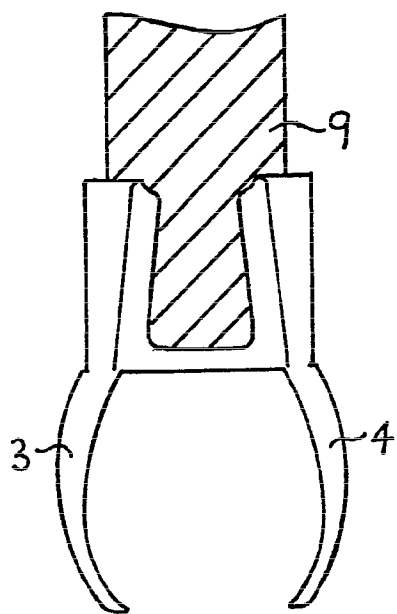


FIGURE 2

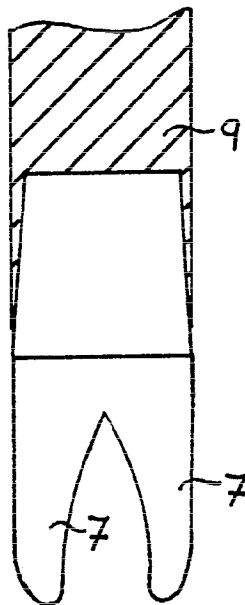


FIGURE 3

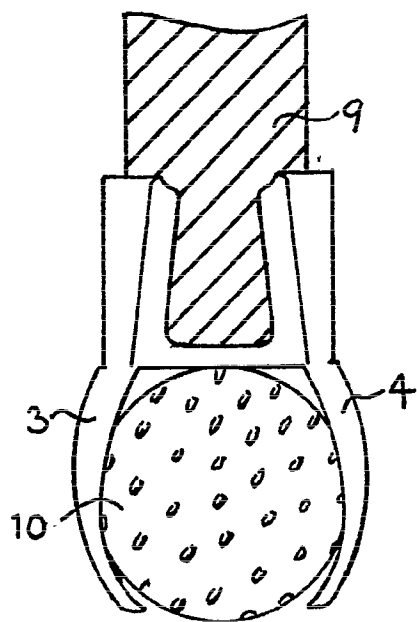


FIGURE 4

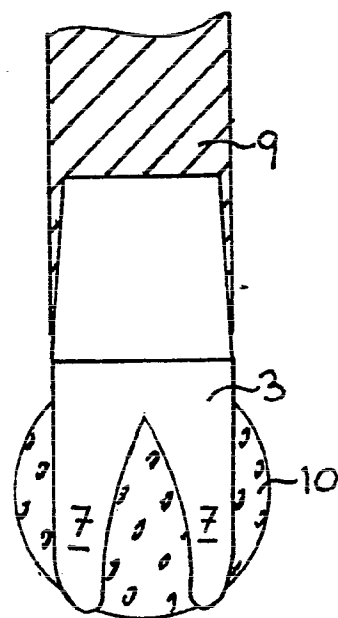


FIGURE 5

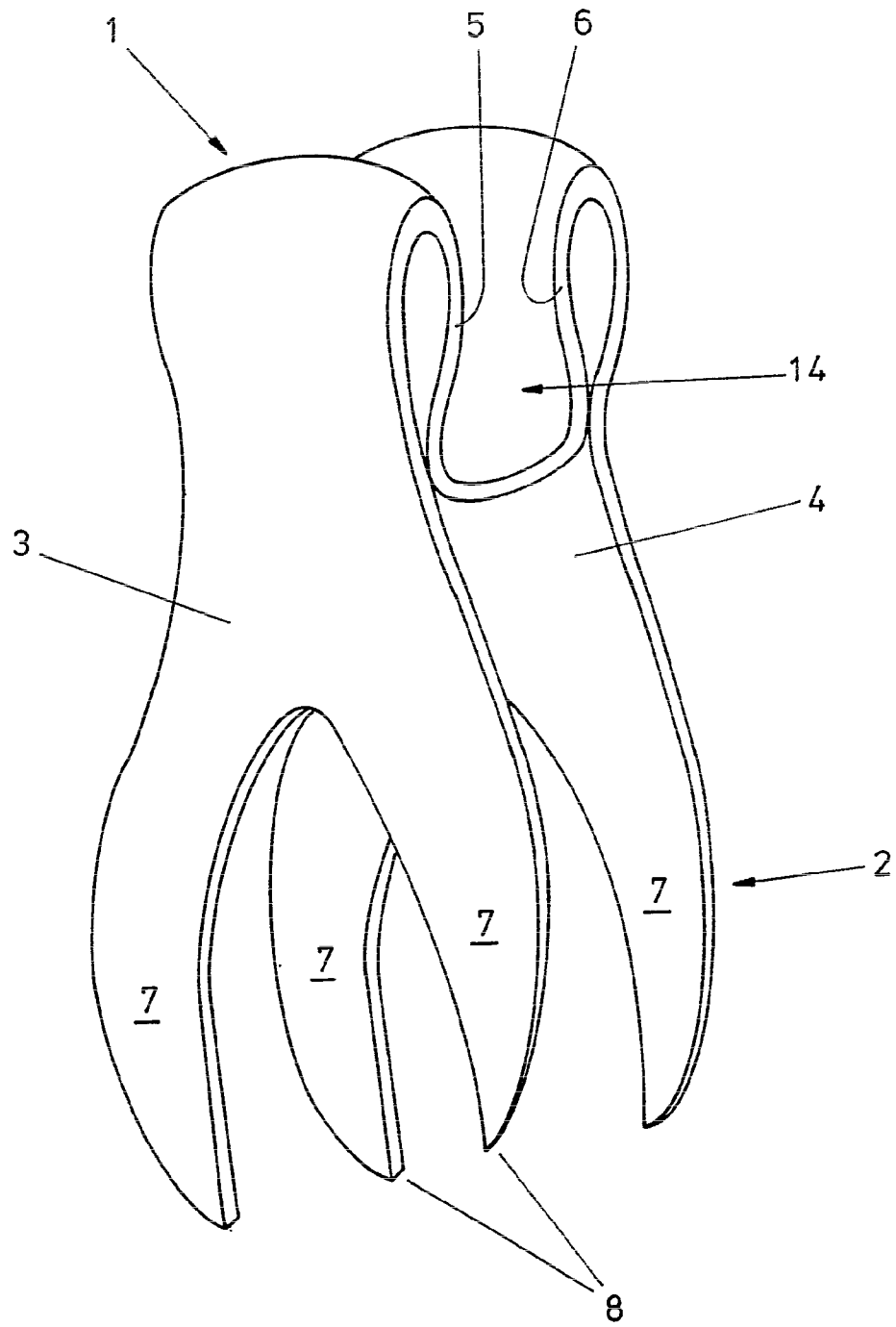


FIGURE 6

Golfing Accessory

The present invention relates to a golfing accessory, and more particularly to an accessory which can be removably attached to the butt end grip of a golf club facilitating retrieval of a golf ball.

U.S. Patent 2750222 and U.K. Patent Specification 2128484 disclose golf ball retrievers which are secured to the end of a golf club grip or shaft, having a suction cup adapted to retrieve the golf ball. Such suction cup retrievers rely for their operation on the formation of a partial vacuum between the cup and the golf ball, which is difficult to achieve satisfactorily, particularly under dry conditions.

An improved golfing accessory has now been devised.

According to the present invention, there is provided a golfing accessory having a club engaging portion arranged to engage the butt end of a golf club thereby to secure the accessory to the butt end, and a ball receiving portion comprising arms connected to the club engaging portion, the arms being spaced from one another and deformable resiliently relative to one another to grippingly engage and retain a golf ball.

It is preferred that the club engaging portion and the ball receiving portion are formed integrally, advantageously of plastics being for example of moulded plastics construction or, alternatively formed from a strip or sheet of plastics material.

In one embodiment, the club engaging portion and ball receiving portion are formed from a single strip or sheet of material whereby the club engaging portion comprises a partially everted portion of the sheet or strip intermediate the arms of the ball receiving portion.

Desirably, the arms are provided with curved or dished surface portions arranged to conform to and grippingly engage the curved surface of the ball.

It is preferred that downward pressure applied to the golf ball by the distal ends of the arms causes the arms to deform resiliently away from one another and thereby apply a gripping force to the golf ball as the ball is received between the arms.

It is preferred that the arms comprise claws which arranged to grip the ball, preferably being bifurcated or forked towards their distal end. Advantageously the ends of the claws are pointed.

Desirably, the club engaging portion of the accessory is arranged to provide a push fit on the butt end of the golf club, and advantageously comprises spaced wall portions resiliently deformable relative to one another to grip the butt end.

It is preferred that the connection between the arms and the club engaging portion is such that when deforming the spaced arms away from one another, the spaced wall portions of the club engaging portion are caused to resiliently deform toward one another. As a result of this feature, when the ball is gripped by the arms, the gripping force applied to the butt of the club by the club engaging portion is actually increased.

The invention will now be further described in a specific embodiment, by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a golfing accessory according to the invention;

Figures 2 and 3 are side end views respectively of the accessory of Figure 1 attached to the butt end of a golf club;

Figures 4 and 5 are side and end views corresponding to the views of Figures 2 and 3 showing the accessory in use; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of a golfing accessory according to the invention.

Referring to the drawings, and initially to Figure 1, there is shown a golfing accessory generally designated 1. The accessory is formed of moulded plastics material and comprises a ball receiving portion 2, having a pair of spaced arms 3,4, and a club engaging portion 14. The club engaging portion 14 is generally "U" shaped in cross section having spaced wall portions 5,6 which in use grippingly engage the butt end of a golf club such that the accessory is a push fit on the butt end of the club.

Arms 3,4 are resiliently deformable either toward, or away from one another by virtue of the plastics construction of the accessory, as are wall portions 5,6. The arrangement of arms 3,4 and wall portions 5,6 is such that as arms 3,4 are biased toward one another, wall portions 5,6 bias away from one another, and vice versa. Arms 3,4 are bifurcated at their distal end to form claws 7. Claws 7 are curved or dished inwardly to

more snugly receive and retain the golf ball, and also terminate in respective points 8 at their distal ends.

In use, the accessory 1 is push fitted to the butt end of a golf club shaft 9 as shown in Figures 2 to 5, and the ball receiving portion held immediately above a golf ball 10. The accessory is then forced downwardly onto ball 10 such that arms 3,4 deform resiliently outwardly to grip and receive the ball 10 (the pointed distal ends of claws 7 initially contact dimples on the surface of the golf ball to ensure correct location of the accessory relative to the ball 10).

With the ball securely held by the accessory, the ball may be lifted from the ground using the butt end of the club, and without the need for the golfer to bend or stoop. Subsequently, the ball may be removed from the accessory, and the accessory removed from the butt end of the club.

Referring to Figure 6, there is shown an alternative embodiment of an accessory according to the invention. In this embodiment, the accessory is formed by means of thermal deformation from a single strip or sheet of plastics material whereby the club engaging portion 14 comprises a partially everted portion of the strip or sheet intermediate arms 3,4.

Claims:

1. A golfing accessory having a club engaging portion arranged to engage the butt end of a golf club thereby to secure the accessory to the butt end, and a ball receiving portion comprising arms connected to the club engaging portion, the arms being spaced from one another and deformable resiliently relative to one another to grippingly engage and retain a golf ball.
2. A golfing accessory according to claim 1, wherein the club engaging portion and the ball receiving portion are formed integrally with one another.
3. A golfing accessory according to claim 1 or claim 2, which is substantially of plastics material.
4. A golfing accessory according to any preceding claim, wherein the arms are provided with curved or dished surface portions arranged to conform to and grippingly engage the curved surface of the ball.
5. A golfing accessory according to any preceding claim, wherein the arms comprise claws arranged to grip the ball.
6. A golfing accessory according to claim 5, wherein the arms are bifurcated or forked at or toward their distal end to form the claws.
7. A golfing accessory according to claim 6, wherein the ends of the claws are pointed.
8. A golfing accessory according to any preceding claim, wherein the club engaging portion of the accessory is arranged to be a push fit on the butt end of a golf club.
9. A golfing accessory according to any preceding claim, wherein the club engaging portion of the accessory comprises spaced wall portions resiliently deformable relative to one another to grip the butt end of the golf club.

10. A golfing accessory according to claim 9, wherein the connection between the arms and the club engaging portion is such that when deforming the spaced arms away from one another, the spaced wall portions of the club engaging portion are caused to resiliently deform toward one another.
11. A golfing accessory substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Patents Act 1977
 Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17
 'The Search report)

Application number
 GB 9400195.5

Relevant Technical Fields

- (i) UK Cl (Ed.M) A6D (D11X) (D28)
 (ii) Int Cl (Ed.5) A63B 47/02

Search Examiner
 D W WHITFIELD

Date of completion of Search
 8 FEBRUARY 1994

Databases (see below)

- (i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
 1-11

(ii)

Categories of documents

- X:** Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step. **P:** Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.
- Y:** Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category. **E:** Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.
- A:** Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. **&:** Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 2246517 A (ROGERS) Whole document	1-4, 8-10
X	US 4787632 (NIGRELLI) Whole document	1-8

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).